

CARRIERS TO BE GIVEN FAIR TRIAL

SECRETARY McADOO ASSERTS IN A LETTER TO THE LAW-MAKERS.

Five-Year Extension of Time Limit of the Railroads Urged—Unsettled Conditions Are Feared by Government Officials.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Washington.—Continuance of Government control of railroads for five years, or until January 1, 1924, was recommended by Director General McAdoo in a letter to the Chairman of the Senate and House Interstate Commerce Committees. This would permit a fair trial of Government operation, said Mr. McAdoo, and eliminate the unsettled condition under which the railroads must be operated during the next year or two if their status is not changed materially by legislation. This recommendation is not made in support of any theories concerning the best ultimate policy of running the railroads, Mr. McAdoo explained, but only to give the nation time to form its ideas carefully.

The Director General explained that it is impossible to retain the roads under Government control for 21 months after the declaration of peace without further legislation, owing to the strain on the morale of officers and employees, and pointed out the difficulty of soon obtaining comprehensive legislation on the subject.

President Wilson, in his recent address to Congress, said he was unable to decide what should be done with the railroads, and asked Congress to take up the question for discussion immediately. He declared that unless action was forthcoming he would be forced to turn back the roads to private management. Acting under this plan the railroad administration has been preparing to relinquish control of the railroads, and it was the general understanding that the administration would wait two or three months before actually starting the relinquishment proceedings to give Congress a chance to act. Recent developments have shown the difficulty of determining a final policy at this time, however, according to railroad administration officials.

Arid Land for Homes.

Washington.—Development of arid, swamp or cut-over lands to provide farms for returning soldiers, and improvement of the public school system to provide for Americanization of foreign-born citizens and the education of illiterate mountain white populations and negroes, are two big reconstruction problems, Secretary of the Interior Lane says in his annual report just made public. He also suggested more extensive reclamation of waste land and that small farms be sold to soldiers on long-term payments.

To Wear Silver Chevron.

Washington.—Officers and men of the army who failed to reach the fighting front by reason of the duties imposed upon them in this country will not be denied recognition of their services in the winning of the war. By direction of President Wilson, as Commander in Chief of the army, General March, Chief of Staff, has issued an order that hereafter such men shall be entitled to wear a silver chevron similar to the gold one authorized for service overseas.

Twelve Spies Were Shot.

London.—Since the beginning of the war 12 spies were shot when in the Tower of London. Carl Hans Lody, alias Charles A. Inglis who at one time was a resident of Omaha, Neb., was the first to be executed. Two women spies were sentenced to death, but both were reprieved, the sentences being commuted to long prison terms.

Youtsey Is Pardoned.

Frankfort, Ky.—Henry Youtsey, who has been serving a life sentence on a charge of complicity in the murder of former Governor William Goebel, was paroled by the Kentucky Board of Prison Control according to an announcement made by Herbert Carr, member of the board.

Business Block Burned.

Wrightstown, N. J.—A whole business block in this village, where Camp Dix is located, was swept by fire, believed to have been started by an overturned oil stove. Nearly a dozen buildings were destroyed before the fire was halted.

New Task for Piez.

Washington.—Charles Piez, vice president and general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, is to succeed Charles M. Schwab as director general of the corporation, it was said at headquarters here of the Shipping Board.

Six Killed on Warship.

Washington.—Six men of the crew of the armored cruiser Brooklyn were killed and 30 others injured, some seriously, in an explosion of coal dust aboard the vessel at Yokohama, Japan, where she was coaling.

Abandons Nitrate Plant.

Washington.—The War Department formally announced that the director of operations has issued orders to the Construction Division to abandon the establishment of a nitrate plant at Cincinnati.

DEMANDS OF BRITISH LABOR

Election Manifesto Outlines Important Matters That the Party Will Urge on the Nation.

The British Labor party in its election manifesto to the voters condemns any form of economic war and demands as an essential part of the peace treaty that the international labor charter be incorporated in the structure of a league of nations. The party demands the immediate withdrawal of allied forces from Russia, claims freedom for Ireland and India as a democratic right and urges self-determination for the British subject peoples.

The manifesto says the Labor party regards land nationalization as a vital necessity and urges immediate nationalization of mines, railways, shipping, armaments and electric power. It demands the immediate erection of 1,000,000 good homes by the state and better pay and conditions for workingmen. The party declares its opposition to tariffs.

IN THE LABOR WORLD

Ten states now have women members on the executive councils of their state labor bodies.

The state horticulturists in Nebraska are carrying on a campaign to interest farmers in the planting of home orchards.

Hartford (Conn.) Bartenders' union has secured an agreement which calls for a 60-hour week and a minimum wage of \$25.

An inventor has mounted an orchard ladder on a wheeled frame so that it can be secured at any angle and easily moved about.

Clerical staffs in several Irish munition factories have threatened to go on strike unless they are granted an increase in pay.

Miners from the Pennsylvania anthracite fields are to be used to reopen the coal mines in the Lens (France) district.

Deep Sea Fishermen's union of Noah Bay, Wash., has chartered a vessel and will handle fish direct without the aid of middlemen.

Ben Davis, the veteran leader of the Yorkshire miners, has cut loose from the British labor party, as he refuses to associate with anarchy and revolution.

Over \$10,000 has been realized by a fête held by the workers in the royal dockyard, London, in aid of the fund for the erection of a memorial hospital at Woolwich.

In Germany in certain industries the proportion of work done by women has risen from slightly under 18 per cent in 1914 to practically 60 per cent at the present time.

Portland (Ore.) meat cutters are demanding an eight-hour day, a \$30-a-week minimum and \$25 a week for women employed as sausage makers and on counter work.

During September official figures show that the average weekly earnings of employees in New York state was \$22.31, an increase of \$1.03 over August, and the highest of any month since 1914.

The executive committee of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy is opposed to any attempt to lower the standard of living by lowering wages and has adopted resolutions against bolshevism.

Guards employed at Duluth-Superior docks and water front approaches have been released from service. This will release several hundred men for employment in lumbering and other industries in this territory.

Last December, when corn broom-makers in New York city were organized, their wages were from \$12 to \$13 a week. Now a signed agreement calls for rates ranging from \$40 to \$55 a week, with the work week reduced from 52½ to 50 hours.

Labor unionists of London, Ontario, have decided to open co-operative stores here soon in order that members may have places at which they can obtain foodstuffs which bear the union label. It is expected that the stores will be departmental in character. It is claimed that few of the goods now sold there bear the label.

Shortly after the strike of 15,000 union employees of newspaper mills in New York and New England went into effect, J. T. Carey, president of the International Brotherhood of Papermakers, sent the men a message instructing them to keep the mills running, and notifying them the war labor board would soon give a decision regarding the wage controversy. As the result operations were resumed.

Increase of 10 per cent in piecework pay for men employed at riveting, chipping and caulking, drilling and reaming in steel shipyards of the Atlantic coast, Delaware river, Gulf coast and Great Lakes steel shipyards is given in an award by the shipbuilding labor adjustment board. The increase is effective as of November 30. Additional retroactive pay for these piece workers on a basis of 80 cents per day for every day worked from October 1 to November 30 also is awarded.

Police in Quebec, Canada, at the present time receive between \$14 and \$18 a week, while the firemen's wages vary between \$14 and \$18.

All the employees of the Southwest (Ireland) railway who did not return to work at a certain date were dismissed from the service.

The Central Labor council of Portland, Ore., adopted resolutions declaring in favor of rescinding the previous action taken by upwards of twenty labor unions in calling a strike for December 9 as a demonstration of sympathy for Thomas J. Mooney, imprisoned in California.

WHY Female Animal Is Superior to the Male

There are a lot of things about nature we may not understand, remarks George F. Burba in the National Educator. The male has but himself to support. The female must support herself and her young. The mother therefore becomes the superior animal; she must show greater discretion in hunting; she must be of quicker action; she must show greater endurance.

And that is exactly what happens in the animal world—the female is superior to the male, although she is generally smaller than the male. Her muscles are stronger in proportion to her size. Her sight is keener. Her movements are quicker. Her scent is more acute. One notices all of this in hunting with bird dogs. Trappers know that the she-wolf is harder to deceive than the male wolf. It has to be, in order that the mother may be able to rear her family, for she has no help from the male.

Nature protects the mother to a greater extent than she protects the male, in order to balance up. She dubs the female bird for a purpose; she isn't favoring the male by giving him his bright colors. If the female were as brilliant as the male she would be an easy prey to hawks and owls as she broods the eggs.

DUE TO SOLUTION IN WATER

How Iron Implements, Long Abandoned in Cuban Mine, Were Turned Into Copper.

Not so very long ago a curious find was made in one of the copper mines at El Cobre, Cuba. These mines, once among the richest in the world, were abandoned for a long time on account of the insurrections in Cuba against the Spanish rule. In 1898 the coal supply was cut off by the insurgents, and consequently pumping the mines became impossible and they were soon filled with water.

After the Spanish war an American company bought the mines and proceeded to pump out the water. In one of the shafts thus made accessible was found what once represented an iron pickaxe, as well as some crowbars. The metal in these implements had, it is said, turned to copper. Extraordinary as this may appear, it can be scientifically explained.

The water, filtering through the rock and the copper ore veins, dissolved some of the copper. The solution containing sulphate of copper. As soon as the sulphuric acid in this solution touched the iron it dissolved that metal and deposited copper in its place, for sulphuric acid has a greater affinity for iron than for copper. In the process certain impurities which had existed in the iron were left behind undisturbed.

The wooden handle of the pick was in good condition. The metal was porous and irregular in shape, but the general outline preserved the form of the pick somewhat enlarged in size.

How Camouflage Is Employed.

The act of hiding anything from the enemy is termed camouflage. Tanks and magazines are covered with amorphous patches of vivid-colored paint that are supposed to disguise them. Guns are hidden by branches; false guns made of tree trunks are erected here and there to attract the enemy's fire; troops behind the lines spend hours digging a false trench, and then laugh gleefully when an enemy airplane drops a flare over it, the signal to his gunners to fire. A great use of camouflage is to hide advancing troops. The varieties, then of camouflage, are infinite. Any little or big trick that can cause the enemy to see what does not exist; any ruse that will make him think that your guns are where in reality they are not; any cloud of smoke that you can wrap around yourself, like the Trojan old, when you advance to the attack; any trench upon which by means of dummy figures, you can persuade your enemy to waste his ammunition, all such things come under the head of camouflage.

How Vocal Sounds Are Produced.

In our throats are two cords which we call our vocal cords. When we talk or sing or shout we cause these cords to vibrate and thus we make the sounds of our voices. The most wonderful part of this voice of ours is that with only two vocal cords we can produce practically all the notes that can be made with a piano, which has a wire for every note, excepting that we cannot make so many at one time. The human throat is so wonderfully constructed that we can lengthen or shorten our vocal cords at will and produce, with two strings, in our throats as many notes as it takes the piano many more strings to produce. From the Book of Wonders by Permission Bureau of Industrial Education, Washington, D. C.

Why Pershing Praises Baseball.

Baseball has made strategists of all American soldiers, General Pershing says in a letter received by Capt. C. E. Adams, former Nebraska state commander of the G. A. R. Captain Adams and General Pershing are great friends. The letter says: "The avidity with which American soldiers are entering into the activities of the war on the battle line is astonishing to European armies. In the matter of grenade and bomb throwing the Americans become proficient in but a few days' drill. I attribute this in part to the American games, football and baseball, which make strategists of them all."

HOW NATURE HAS SET SPOT ASIDE FOR WORLD'S NUTMEG GARDEN.

If we had to go for our food to the places where it grows, instead of having it brought to our homes, only the persons who liked simple things to eat would have much time for business. Especially would people who liked highly spiced food have to be journeying west of their lives. They could find nutmegs in the West Indies and in South America, but if they wanted to find the spice in its greatest abundance their quest for it would be a long one indeed. And they could not make the whole journey in palatial steamships, for the nutmeg flourish chiefly in the little Banda Islands, tiny specks of land among the thousands of islands that make up the East Indies.

There are only three islands in the group that are really big enough to be called islands, and these three have a total land area of but 10 square miles. They are between the huge islands of Celebes and New Guinea, about half way between the Philippines, which are far to the north, and Australia, which lies far to the south.

Here is the world's nutmeg garden, where every inch of land is almost as closely cultivated as are the vineyards along the Rhine. From these seemingly insignificant bits of land are exported annually about 1,500,000 pounds of nutmegs and 370,000 pounds of mace.

KEPT RECORDS OF HISTORY

How Papyrus Has Played Important Part in All Stages of the World's Civilization.

In ancient times papyrus played a great part in civilization, for except for parchment made from the skins of animals it was the only material on which records could be kept and literature could be preserved, and it is from papyrus rolls that we get the knowledge of ancient customs and habits.

The plant grows tall, from five to twenty-five feet, and it bears long, grassy leaves. The stem is smooth and triangular and its inner pith was divided, by means of a sharp knife, into thin strips. These were placed on a table and kept moistened. Over them crosswise other strips were laid, and then the whole was pressed together till it became a flat sheet, which was dried in the sun, beaten by a mallet and polished with a piece of ivory. The breadth of the sheet was limited by the length of the papyrus stem, but its length could be carried indefinitely.

When finished the strip was rolled on a wooden cylinder, the ends of which projected beyond the papyrus and were decorated with papyrus and carvings. This was the material on which the greatest examples of ancient thought were written with a sharp-pointed instrument which was the forerunner of our pen.

How German Troops Were Fooled.

Surrender of a German force of 3,000 men in East Africa was due to the chance dropping of a number of bombs by a British airplane, according to a report from Cape Town, which says:

"An officer of the Flying Corps was out on reconnaissance in the region of the Rovuma river, but found nothing to bomb. Being forced to discharge his cargo of bombs to lighten his machine for the homeward trip, he chose a quiet spot and dropped them all, causing, of course, considerable noise. The German general, Tafel, was at the time marching to join his chief, Von Lettow, but news of the explosions was reported to him, and he, thinking a large force of the enemy must be somewhere in the district, diverted his line of march and before long bumped into a British force.

"Ultimately his whole force, 3,000 strong, surrendered."

How Dandelions Saved Autist.

A Findlay (Ohio) autist was stranded, homeless, somewhere between Findlay and Toledo, miles from a filling station. A newly wedded pair passed by in a small roadster. They were stopped by the man with the useless car and he told them his troubles. They were in sympathetic mood, at all newly wedded couples are, and were asked for gasoline. But how was the gasoline to be transferred from one tank to another, when nothing was at hand? Finally, the little bride suggested that a siphon be made of dandelion stems. Both men laughed, but they agreed to try it, just because she was a bride. They made the chain of stems, started the gasoline, and the Findlay man got enough to take him home.

Why Tree Bows Its Head.

A note in Nature refers briefly to a lecture by Sir J. C. Rose, which describes and explains a bit of Huxley wonder working—the "praying palm tree" of Fandour. At the time of evening prayer the tree is seen to bow its head in prostration, and it resumes an erect attitude the next morning. The lecturer devised special apparatus to record, continuously the movements of the tree by day and night, and thus discovered that the movement was due to the diurnal change in temperature. Movements of similar origin were found in all other trees tested.

STAUBS THEATRE

Monday & Tuesday Jan. 6-7 Matinee and Night

OLIVER MOROSCO PRESENTS
The Ever Popular Hawaiian Romance
THE BIRD OF PARADISE

With Hawaiian Singers and Players and The Thrilling Volcano Scene
The Play That Made Hawaiian Music Popular

Monday Night Jan. 13
HARVEY D. ORR OFFERS
The Merry Musical Farce Furore
THE MILLION DOLLAR DOLL

A Jingly Joyful Comedy With Sparkling Music and A witching Girl

RED CROSS AIDS FARMING IN ITALY

Through efforts of the American Red Cross, reliable farming is now being taught the younger generation of Italy, thus eliminating considerable waste and replacing old-fashioned implements with modern American-made machinery.

Schools of agriculture have been established, and the Department of Civil Affairs of the American Red Cross, co-operating with a similar Italian organization, known as the "Comitato per gli Orfani de' Combattenti Morti in Guerra," has opened a school of farming, conducted by Italian Fathers, in fields just outside the Porta Furba, one of the historic gateways of Rome.

The boys of the school, all orphans of peasant soldiers, are given training in scientific and practical farming, the object being to strengthen their attachment to the soil, also to convert them into good and intelligent farmers. Lectures and classroom instruction are accompanied by field work with modern tools under the direct supervision of the younger fathers of the institution, who work side by side with the boys in the fields, teaching and demonstrating.

BISHOP JOHN J. O'CONNOR TELLS OF RED CROSS APPEAL

Bishop John J. O'Connor of Newark thus expresses his approval of the Red Cross Christmas roll call:

"A citizen of the United States can offer no valid excuse for failure to enroll himself in the American Red Cross Society. An organization whose one great principle is humanity has the right to call all men to its standard. The Red Cross appeals to the common human in us. It aims at giving fine words, like sympathy and pity and mercy, some practical value. The world has waited a long time for an organization which could give to vague feelings of sympathy wide, practical application. The American Red Cross fulfills every requirement of a broadly humanitarian association. It accepts only universally admitted principles. It limits its operations to no particular class. It sides with no party. It asks of its members but two things—that they have pity on suffering wherever found and that they have the will to relieve misfortune.

"The appeal of the Red Cross for an increased membership should be instantly heeded. The man who fails to heed this call places himself outside the pale. He does not feel with his native land. He is not one with his kind. Here is our opportunity to join in a work which gives to religion and its teaching present value. Place your names on the rolls of the American Red Cross."

WHY AMERICA NEEDS CHRISTMAS ROLL CALL

George E. Scott, general manager of the American Red Cross, thus explains the necessity for the Christmas Roll Call:

"The response that the people of the United States make when the Christmas Roll Call summons them to a universal membership in the American Red Cross will, if that response is nation wide, accomplish these things:

"It will give exalted purpose and high resolve to the Soldiers and Sailors of America.

"It will give encouragement and renewed devotion to those who are working here at home.

"It will give inspiration and courage to those of our people who are laboring overseas."

When the Soldiers Are Getting Well.

The convalescent soldiers are being cared for in Italy by the American Red Cross. There are sixteen hospitals already in operation and twenty-nine others in process of construction. At these hospitals, in addition to the care of their wounds and their general health, the soldiers are being taught useful trades. There are typewriters, sewing machines and tools for cabinet making at each hospital, and the soldiers find that, in addition to supplying them with a useful trade when they are well, the use of these "toys" gives them hours of pleasure during the tedious period of getting well.

OUT OF MANY RACES RED CROSS MAKES ONE

ONE of the greatest services which the Red Cross is performing in this war is the unification of the many races of which America is composed through the Home Service, which, through its 10,000 committees, is looking after the welfare of the soldiers' families in every corner of the country. America has always been called the Melting Pot, and truly, but the process has been slow. The war has accelerated it. The Indians of the west, the negroes of the south, the Italians and Eastern Europeans of our industrial centers, the Mexicans of the Southwest, Armenians and Swedes and Norwegians and Japanese and Icelanders—all are now enlisted under one flag, and were whole heartedly in the war because it was America's war and they are Americans.

That they feel this is patent to those who have seen and talked with these men. Witness the Italian, who in the assembly hall of one of our mobilization camps was waiting with a group of his fellows to take the oath of allegiance. He stepped forward suddenly with tears in his eyes and with a vivid gesture pressed a corner of the American flag that hung over the desk in front of him to his lips. A group of native born soldiers who had been looking on with amused indifference broke into applause and cheers. From then on these Italians were their brother Americans.

Such work as this is valuable not only for the morale of the men; it is binding the nation into one organic whole as it has never been bound before. To give concrete expression to this unity the Red Cross plans through its Christmas Roll Call, to be held the week beginning December 16, to increase its membership from 22,000,000 to the limit of available membership. It wishes to give in this way notice to the world that every American, irrespective of creed or birth, stands squarely and uncompromisingly for the principles for which we have been fighting—that America is one and indivisible, pledged solidly for honor and mercy and good faith.

SICK FOLKS HUSTLE FOR THE RED CROSS

Through the National Tuberculosis Association and the Journal of the Outdoor Life, its official magazine, a campaign is being organized to get tuberculosis patients of the country to enlist every fellow "cure chaser" as a member of the Red Cross during the coming Red Cross Christmas Roll Call.

Special campaigns have been organized in all of the large sanatoria, of which there are nearly 600 scattered throughout the United States. Efforts will be made to enroll one hundred per cent in each institution and also to go after all patients and enroll them as well. Every patient in the sanatorium will be responsible to get one more patient. The movement will be a contribution of the tuberculosis patients of the country to the Red Cross.

Since the National Tuberculosis Association and its affiliated agencies are being supported by the Red Cross through direct appropriation during the year 1919, this effort of the tuberculosis patients is considered to be an unusually appropriate one.

RED CROSS CARRIES TONS OF FOOD TO BELGIANS

American Red Cross trucks are constantly in action along the Belgian front. This report of the work of these trucks was recently received by the Commission for Belgium:

"In the last two weeks we handled 250 tons of foodstuffs and a large quantity of salvaged material.

"We have been saving the effects of people in the shelled towns, Furnes, Abbeville, Coxyde, La Panne, Alveringhem, Ost-Durick, the Trappist Farm, St. Jean-le-Biez and Renninghelst. On nearly all occasions when work was in progress in the last named it has been shelled, but fortunately without injuries to trucks or drivers."

For Better Drinking Water.

Because of the necessity for better drinking water in Italy the American Red Cross is manufacturing a large number of water sterilizers and disinfecting plants which are to be turned over to the Italian military authorities at Rome and used according to their